

AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-75 (cancelled)

Claim 76 (cancelled)

77.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said ~~at-least-one-subscriber-comprises~~ plurality of subscribers comprise a hard copy device; and wherein said at least one subscriber transmits format information including image identifier information to said hard copy device and through said network to said single server; and wherein said hard copy device receives from said single server through said network delivery of said medical images corresponding to said image identifier information and then provides a hard copy of said medical images.

78.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said ~~at-least-one-subscriber-comprises~~ plurality of subscribers comprise a software executing subscriber running medical software for transmission through said network to said single server; and wherein said single server manages medical software and registers said medical software transmitted through said network by said at least one subscriber in said data base and causes delivery of said medical software through said network to said software executing subscriber.

79.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said plurality of subscribers comprise two or more subscribers ~~are-provided~~ , each connected to said network.

80.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said ~~at-least-one-subscriber-comprises~~ plurality of subscribers comprise means for specifying type of image processing to be

communicated through said network to said single server.

81.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said single server comprises means for informing said at least one subscriber through said network of type of image processing to be applied.

82.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said single server comprises means for establishing communication through said network with said at least one subscriber when image processing is completed; and means for transmitting through said network said medical images subjected to said image processing to said at least one subscriber.

83.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said ~~at-least-one-subscriber-comprises~~ plurality of subscribers comprise means for transmitting through said network to said single server, a request for medical images subjected to image processing; and means for receiving said medical images from said single server through said network.

84.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein said single server comprises means for storing each medical image in at least one form before image processing; and means for storing each medical image in at least one form after said image processing.

85.(currently amended) The system of claim 83, wherein said request is for only part or all of said medical images and wherein said part of all of said medical images are sent through said network to said ~~at-least-one-subscriber~~ plurality of subscribers .

86.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein

said single server comprises means for polling said ~~at-least-one~~  
    subscriber plurality of subscribers through said network to collect  
    medical images before image processing.

    87.(currently amended) The system of claim [76] 93, wherein  
    said single server comprises means for sending through said network  
    to a delivery destination imaging conditions for said medical images.

    Claim 88 (cancel)

    89.(currently amended) The method of claim [88] 94, wherein  
    said one subscriber requests delivery of said medical images; and  
    comprises the further steps of:

        requesting identifier information by said single server  
        through said network from said one subscriber;

        sending identifier information by said one subscriber to said  
        single server through said network;

        reading medical images from said data base in said single  
        server;

        sending each medical image from said single server through  
        said network to said one subscriber; and

        displaying said medical images by said one subscriber.

    90.(currently amended) The method of claim [88] 94, wherein  
    said one subscriber requests through said network of said single  
    server registration of said medical images; and comprises the  
    further steps of:

        requesting imaging conditions by said single server to said  
        one subscriber or by said one subscriber to said single server  
        through said network;

sending said imaging conditions by said one subscriber to said single server through said network or by said single server to said subscriber through said network; and

    said single server registering said medical images according to imaging conditions in said data base.

91(currently amended) The method of claim [88] 94, wherein said one subscriber requests of said single server by signaling through said network processing of said medical images, and comprising the further steps of:

    said single server processing said medical images;

    said single server then sending results of processing through said network to said one subscriber; and

    causing said one subscriber to display results of said processing of said medical images.

92.(original) The method of claim 91, wherein said single server further sends through said network to said one subscriber request for identification information, and said one subscriber sends such identification information to said single server through said network; wherein said single server reads medical images from said data base and processes said medical images prior to sending results thereof to said one subscriber through said network.

93.(new) A medical image servicing system comprising:

a network generally available to the public;

a plurality of subscribers having imaging devices for producing medical images and connected to said network for transmitting through said network said produced medical images for storage and for receiving through said network said stored medical images;

wherein each of said plurality of subscribers has a registration contract and/or access contract whereby the registration contract entitles the holder thereof to transmit through said network said medical images produced by imaging devices of the subscriber to a single server for storage, and whereby the access contract entitles the holder thereof to receive through said network said medical images stored in said single server;

wherein said medical images are associated with at least one image selected from the group of imaging devices producing MRI, X-ray CT, Ultrasound, PET, digitalized X-ray and CR; and

said single server, being separate from and used commonly by said plurality of subscribers, and being connected to said network for servicing said plurality of subscribers upon signaling from said plurality of subscribers; said single server comprising:

a data base for storage of said medical images produced by said imaging devices of said plurality of subscribers and transmitted through said network upon signaling by said plurality of subscribers;

means for checking and verifying legitimacy of said plurality of subscribers seeking to store said medical image in said data base of said single server or seeking to access said

medical images stored in said data base of said single server;

means for registering in said data base said medical images produced by said imaging devices of said plurality of subscriber and transmitted through said network by ones of said plurality of subscribers having a registration contract upon signaling by said ones of said plurality of subscribers and upon checking and verifying legitimacy;

means for accessing in said data base said medical images registered therein by ones of said plurality of subscribers having an access contract upon signaling by said ones of said plurality of subscribers and upon checking and verifying legitimacy;

wherein said storing being equivalent to said registering of medical images in said data base;

means for compressing in data size said medical images when transmitted through said network and for decompressing in data size said medical images to original data size when received through said network by a subscriber seeking access; and

means for producing a backup of medical images registered in said data base.

94.(new) A medical image servicing method utilizing a network generally available to the public, a plurality of subscribers connected to the network and a single server connected to the network for commonly servicing the plurality of subscribers upon signaling thereby, wherein each of said plurality of subscribers has a registration contract entitling that subscriber to transmit medical images produced by an imaging device located in that subscriber through the network for registering in the single server and/or an

access contract entitling that subscriber to receive medical images registered in said single server and transmitted through said network to that subscriber; the method comprising the steps of:

    a subscriber having a registration contract signaling said single server through said network to transmit medical images produced by an imaging device of said subscriber through said network to be registered by said single server after said single server checks and verifies legitimacy of the request for registration of the medical images by that subscriber;

    a subscriber having an access contract signaling said single server through said network to transmit medical images registered in said single server through said network to be received by said subscriber after said single server checks and verifies legitimacy of the request for access of the medical images by that subscriber;

    compressing and decompressing data size of the medical images by the single server for registration and accessing; and

    providing back-up for the medical images in the single server.